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The "Earmark Reform Pledge" promoted by the group Citizens Against Government Waste seeks to limit earmarks and make them more transparent.

Congressional Democrats rose to power last year based partly on their promise to tackle wasteful spending, and they have tried to limit the number of earmarks placed on legislation. But Members in both parties have found ways, such as writing letters to specific agencies, to get their projects through.

The pledge requires Congressmen to disclose both their earmark requests and letters to agencies, and to avoid any earmark that does not "serve a federal interest."

Rep. John Shadegg (R-Ariz.) said he and others were working on legislation targeting earmarks, including a bill that would prohibit lobbyists who seek "special interest money" from making campaign contributions.

The bills would pass "as soon as the public demands it," Shadegg said.

He and other members rejected suggestions that the public does not see government spending as a major concern compared to issues such as health care.

“Every poll showed government corruption was right near the top of their concerns,” said Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) said.

Added Shadegg, “Corruption is an overriding issue Democrats campaigned on” in 2006.

Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) was also in attendance, along with Reps. Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas) Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Tom Price, (R-Ga.).